UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/778
13 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 132 (a)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY ASPECTS OF THE FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS

Support account for peace-keeping operations

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peace-keeping operations (A/49/717).

2. The Advisory Committee's previous report, contained in document A/48/955 of 24 June 1994 provides, in paragraphs 2-9, detailed background information relating to the support account for peace-keeping operations.

3. The Advisory Committee recalls that by its resolution 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the observations and recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/955), subject to the provisions of its resolution. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session pursuant to the recommendations contained in paragraph 21 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/48/955). In that paragraph the Advisory Committee had requested the Secretary-General to clarify, in a comprehensive manner, the issues raised in connection with the rationale, scope and funding of backstopping of peace-keeping operations, taking into account, inter alia, the comments of the Committee reflected in its report (A/48/955).

4. The report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717) attempts to provide further clarification on the criteria for deciding which support activities should be funded from the regular budget and which from the support account, the extent to which the regular budget is already providing support and the threshold for establishing core posts to be funded from the regular budget.

5. In paragraphs 6 to 11 of document A/49/717, the Secretary-General discusses the question of backstopping of peace-keeping operations. In the view of the Advisory Committee, the analysis of the criteria for deciding on how support activities are to be financed should be considered thoroughly in all its aspects, including various options to be considered. The Committee intends to revert to this matter early at its February 1995 session, at which time it will submit its recommendations on criteria and other outstanding matters. In this connection, the Committee notes the statement of the Secretary-General in paragraph 36 of his report that "the total number of posts required for effectively backstopping peace-keeping operations was considered to be about 630" and the subsequent discussion in paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report. The Committee requests that it be provided with a clarification of these considerations in terms of actual workload requirements. The Secretary-General is also requested to provide information on implementation and compliance with the requests contained in General Assembly resolution 48/226 C.

6. The Advisory Committee recalls that as at 1 May 1993 there were 194 posts financed from the support account in addition to the equivalent of 50 additional posts provided under general temporary assistance. Under the terms of resolutions 48/226 A of 23 December 1993 and 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, the General Assembly authorized an additional 148 posts. As shown in annex I to the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/48/470/Add.1, the total number of authorized posts for the period up to 30 June 1994 is 342. To cover the costs of these posts as well as provisions for general temporary assistance, overtime, travel and common services, the Assembly authorized an amount of $16,376,250 for the six-month period up to 30 June 1994.

7. With regard to the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994, the Secretary-General, in paragraph 36 of document A/48/470/Add.1, requested a total of 92 additional posts, of which 60 posts were requested for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, 30 for the Department of Administration and Management and 1 for the Office of Legal Affairs. Under the terms of resolution 48/226 C, the General Assembly authorized, inter alia, 65 of the 92 posts requested by the Secretary-General, to be funded from the provision of $1 million under general temporary assistance, thus bringing the total number of posts financed from the support account to 407 during the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994. The distribution of these posts by offices, as well as the distribution of 65 posts funded under general temporary assistance, is indicated in tables A and B respectively of annex I to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717).

8. With regard to non-post requirements, the General Assembly authorized for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994 the resources for general temporary assistance ($167,700), overtime ($80,000), travel on official business ($140,000) and specialized equipment for the Situation Centre ($592,000), as recommended in paragraph 59 of the report of the Advisory Committee (A/48/955), and the resources for training ($480,000), as requested in paragraph 62 of annex IV to the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/470/Add.1).

9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 38 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717) that the Secretary-General is requesting 24 additional posts for the calendar year 1995 which, together with the proposed regularization of the 65 posts currently funded under general temporary

assistance (see A/49/717, para. 35), would bring the total of posts financed from the support account to 431. Out of the requested 24 additional posts, as shown in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717), 12 posts are requested for the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, 9 for the Department of Administration and Management and 3 for the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

10. In addition to the requested 24 additional posts, as indicated in paragraph 40 of the report of the Secretary-General (see A/49/717/Corr.1, item 1), $483,500 is requested for general temporary assistance, $210,000 for overtime, $120,000 for travel and $504,900 for training. Detailed information on these non-post requirements is provided in paragraphs 23 to 25 of annex IV of document A/49/717.

11. The Advisory Committee welcomes the detailed presentation in the report of the Secretary-General of the training activities of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations to be undertaken in 1995.

12. The Advisory Committee notes that the General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/226 C, took note of the Committee's request that the Secretary-General submit a report on the various aspects related to the secondment to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, at no cost to the United Nations, of military and civilian personnel by a number of Member States, and the Assembly's request that the report should address the question of providing reimbursement of expenses to those personnel. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that such a report was under preparation and would be submitted to the Assembly during its forty-ninth session.

13. In view of its observations in paragraph 5 above, and owing to the limited time available for the consideration of this report, the Advisory Committee recommends that at this stage the General Assembly authorize for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1995 the funding of $14,105,900 for the continuation of 407 posts and the approval of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General. 1/ In this connection, the Committee recalls that in its report contained in document A/48/955, it had recommended approval of 60 additional posts and general temporary assistance for 2 additional posts; and that the Assembly, in its resolution 48/226 C, had approved, inter alia, up to $1 million for general temporary assistance for the period from 1 July to 31 December 1994, and continued funding of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and funding of three additional posts (over and above the total of 62 additional posts recommended by the Committee). As indicated in paragraph 34 of his report (A/49/717), the Secretary-General has used the amount of $1 million to cover the costs of 65 additional posts for six months. It will be for the Assembly to decide whether to continue the existing arrangement under which 65 out of 407 posts are funded from general temporary assistance, or to approve the previous recommendation of the Advisory Committee to establish 60 additional posts (with the remaining 5 to be funded from general temporary assistance).

14. Owing to the lack of detailed information on budget performance for the support account in 1994 in the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/717), the Advisory Committee was not in a position to review in detail obligations and

disbursements for 1994, or the resource requirements for non-post objects of expenditure for the year 1995. The Committee trusts that the financial performance for the support account for 1994 will be provided to the Committee during its February 1995 session. In the meantime, and pending its detailed review in February 1995, the Committee recommends approval of non-posts resources for 1995 on the basis of three-month requirements, as follows: $163,900 for general temporary assistance (including $86,000 for six-month funding of the position of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General), $52,500 for overtime, $30,000 for travel on official business and $132,400 for training. The Advisory Committee will revert to the additional requests of the Secretary-General, referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 above, early in its February 1995 session, with a view to making recommendations to the General Assembly at its resumed forty-ninth session.

Notes

1/ See resolutions 48/226 A-C.